

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 21 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

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Announcement of an increase of some 15 percent in the March 1942 ceiling prices of five important dried fruits and raisins at the packer level was the OPA action of primary importance to the farmer during the past week.

DRIED FRUITS AND RAISINS

Lifting of price levels on dried fruits and raisins was first indicated by OPA on July 1 last, when the initial announcement on canned fruits also was made. However, the major portion of the pack - a 500,000-ton output with a \$75,000,000 sales value - will be taken this year by the military forces and Lend-Lease. OPA also will issue a regulation in the near future permitting wholesale and retail distributors of dried fruits and raisins to adjust their prices to the ultimate consumer in relation to the new packer prices (OPA Release-570).

Price ceilings are set for both Government and trade to allow for sales to the latter after the Federal requirements are filled. Dried apple prices are not covered in the order. Domestic whole dates are considered as fresh fruit and not subject to regulation as dried fruits. Status of date products processed from domestic dates will be outlined shortly. Dried fruits affected include prunes, pears, peaches, apricots, figs, and raisins.

CANNED VEGETABLES

Price Administrator Leon Henderson formally reestablished the Department of Agriculture's support prices of \$1.10 per dozen on standard-quality tomatoes and 95 cents per dozen on standard-quality peas as maximum prices for all canners in sales either to the Department or to the private trade (OPA-T-58).

FROZEN FOODS

Complete details were announced of the official formula by which frozen-food packers will pass on increases in their raw material and other costs of the 1942 pack of frozen fruits, berries, and vegetables over those of 1941 (OPA-548).

RICE

Maximum prices on milled rice of all varieties and classes were reduced an average of 9.7 percent (OPA-551). This reduction will relieve the squeeze on wholesalers and retailers of milled rice, but will not mean any change in price to the ultimate consumer.

FATS AND OILS

Sales and deliveries of volatile oils - the most important of which are peppermint and spearmint - by growers of the plants from which these oils are distilled

are exempt from the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-T-46).

Prices of the natural oils and concentrates from which vitamin A is obtained have been established at levels substantially lower than those prevailing during late 1941 (OPA-523).

FROZEN OR IDLE MATERIALS

OPA announced formulas designed to simplify the pricing of idle or frozen materials sold under War Production Board's Priorities Regulation No. 13 to facilitate further the flow of such materials into war uses (OPA-522).

CHEMICALS

A substantial reduction is announced in certain basic chemical prices (OPA-556). These chemicals - butyl alcohol and esters thereof and acetone - are used in the manufacture of important military and civilian products.

HIDE GLUE

Maximum prices of numerous grades of hide glue stock were reduced (OPA-T-48). This was done in order to eliminate threat of a price squeeze for hide glue manufacturers.

FERTILIZER

Sulphate of ammonia - one of the most important agricultural fertilizers - is placed under a specific "dollars and cents" price ceiling on all sales by producers, importers, and "primary jobbers" (OPA-538).

SUGAR

Consumers may buy 5 pounds of sugar upon the surrender of Stamp No. 8 during the 10 week period beginning August 23 and ending October 31 (OPA-544).

Uniform means of providing allowable sugar inventories for persons who have opened up new retail or wholesale business since rationing went into effect on April 28 are announced (OPA-502).

OPA sugar rationing program is operating on a basis of possible maintenance of allotments to consumers through the first 9 months of 1943 at least equal to those at the beginning of rationing, provided the shipping outlook in the Caribbean does not take a radical turn for the worse (OPA-529).

FOOD PRODUCTS PACKAGING

Simplified methods are announced for manufacturers and distributors for determining their ceiling prices on food products which during March were packed in tin containers and are now being packed in other types of containers (OPA-528).

RENTS

Residential rents in 38 more defense-rental areas will be cut back and brought

under Federal regulation on September 1 (OPA-545). New areas are scattered throughout 21 States, and include New Orleans; Kansas City; Tampa, Fla.; Des Moines, Iowa; Essex County in the Boston, Mass., area; Allentown and Bethlehem, Pa.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Jackson, Mich.; and Utica-Rome, New York.

FUEL

OPA authorized adjustment of maximum prices on cordwood and other firewoods in Washington and Oregon to meet the threat of a fuel shortage in the Northwest (OPA-539).

Circumstances under which exceptions from or adjustments of ceiling prices may be granted on bituminous coal delivered from mine or preparation plant were further defined (OPA-535).

Price Administrator Henderson denied 18 petitions and requests from coal companies for upward adjustment of bituminous coal prices (OPA-540).

CLAY SEWER PIPE

Manufacturers' price ceilings for vitrified clay sewer pipe and allied products are set for the Eastern, Southern, and East Central areas of the country (OPA-537).

LUMBER

Certain existing contracts for Douglas fir ponton lumber have been exempted from the Douglas fir price regulation provisions to prevent any delay or interruption in the delivery of this vital grade of lumber, used in the construction of bridges (OPA-T-57). This was done at the request of the War Department.

AUTOMOBILES

OPA ordered frozen until October 31, 1942, all sales to civilians of 1942 model Ford, Chevrolet, and Plymouth four-door, hard-topped sedans that have been driven less than 1,000 miles. This action was taken to halt outflow of a dwindling inventory until Army and Navy requirements are filled (OPA-560).

TIRES

Leading Tire Co., Mount Vernon, New York, has its retail sales of new and recapped tires and new tubes suspended for 6 months for violation of rationing regulations (OPA-534).

OPA called on its local war price and rationing boards for the strictest possible interpretation of a recent amendment to the tire rationing regulation restricting truck eligibility to vehicles essential to the war effort or public health and safety (OPA-561). Warning was also given that tire quotas will have to be cut in September from the August level.

GASOLINE

H. W. Ambrose, a gasoline dealer of Myrtle Beach, S. C., who failed to comply with gasoline rationing regulations, was denied gasoline deliveries for the next 6 months (OPA-569).

GARMENTS

OPA announced three clarifying changes in the men's and boys' tailored clothing regulation (OPA-T-47).

Manufacturers and wholesalers of men's and boys' tailored clothing were informed that the regulation affecting these articles will be amended in order to postpone until October 10, 1942, date on which statements must be filed with OPA (OPA-543).

Prices were "rolled back" on jumpers, overalls, work shirts, and other staple work clothing, to relieve retail pressure which might have forced an increase in prices that workingmen pay (OPA-559).

Ceiling prices on demins, chambrays and coverts were reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per yard as part of the general roll back of prices in the work clothing field (OPA-558).

OPA announced several changes in methods for pricing imported wool yarns, British Wool Control wools, woolen "sales" yarns, and yarns spun from blends of wool and mohair (OPA-T-55).

Ceiling prices are set by Maximum Price Regulation No. 123 applying to all blends of "processed wool waste materials," including blends composed in part of wool and other fibers, in addition to the wool waste materials (OPA-513).

OPA set cents-per-yard prices to be established for textile piece goods under Maximum Price Regulation No. 127 (Finished Piece Goods) (OPA-557). This was for two limited types of goods - shoe lining fabrics and "Government rejects" of certain finished piece goods made according to military specifications.

TEXTILE LABELING

Federal Trade Commission's proposal to control textile labeling according to the degree and kind of colorfastness, is welcomed as "an important advance in the battle we are waging to keep down the cost of wartime living" (OPA-553).

ALUMINUM SCRAP

Revised Price Schedule No. 2 was broadened in scope to cover all secondary aluminum ingot and practically all grades of aluminum scrap (OPA-510).

RELIEF

The Andala Co., Inc. of Andalusia, Ala., a cotton textile mill, newly engaged in the production of 8.2-ounce cotton khaki trousers for the Army, has been given a ceiling price of 63.5 cents per pair which it may charge war procurement agencies. This maximum price is based on the mill's cost of production (OPA-T-54).

A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co., Decatur, Ill., wholesalers and retailers of cube laundry starch, production of which was being discontinued in March 1942, were given formal permission to charge the same maximum price for a 12-ounce pack-

age which most distributors were handling at the same price as the discontinued line (OPA-547).

Larus Brothers Tobacco Co., Richmond, Va., were given permission to make for the Cambridge Tobacco Co., Inc., New York, five private brands of smoking tobacco in a Christmas package (OPA-533). This will consist of 1 1/8-ounces of each of the five brands packed in individual containers assembled in a circular tray, at \$7.40 per dozen packages, less 2 percent discount for payment within 10 days.

OPA announced adjustment of the maximum price for veneer mill wood waste when sold to the Ford Motor Co. for use as a raw material at its Iron Mountain, Mich., wood distillation plant (OPA-549).

Universal Potteries, Inc., Cambridge, Ohio, is granted permission to increase the price of a pattern of semivitreous china it manufactures solely for Sears, Roebuck & Co. (OPA-565).

Seeman Brothers, Inc., of New York, caught with abnormally low prices for canned tuna fish when the General Maximum Price Regulation was issued, is permitted to restore its prices to levels in line with those of its competitors (OPA-525).

SPEECH

Price Administrator Leon Henderson at Norfolk, Va., urged cooperation of farmers and workers in the battle against inflation (OPA-572).

SERVICES

A list of automotive services for which prices are controlled and an outline for the four main things which suppliers of these services must do to comply with price regulations is announced (OPA-T-61).

Because manufacture of wire coat hangers has been stopped to conserve steel, OPA announced that dry cleaners and laundries may require a reasonable deposit-- of from 1 to 5 cents - to insure the return of such hangers used in delivering finished garments (OPA-571).

Retail chain stores operating under a central purchasing and pricing policy were authorized to continue this policy - after obtaining OPA approval - in determining maximum charges for any article or service covered by OPA regulations (OPA-554).

GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

Manufacturers, converters, and jobbers of rayon knit goods were reminded that sales of these products come under the scope of the General Maximum Price Regulation, and that pricing methods of the general regulation for these fabrics must be observed (OPA-574).

OPA established a more direct method for sellers subject to the General Maximum Price Regulation to establish ceiling prices for classes of purchasers with which they did not deal in March (OPA-564).

A series of questions and answers were issued dealing with the effect of the General Maximum Price Regulation on prices of vitamin A, new blends of tea, rabbit meat, and other commodities (OPA-519).

A series of questions and answers has been issued explaining in detail the meaning of the phrase, "purchaser of the same class" (OPA-T-59).